

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHILDREN'S NETWORK CBO PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

HIGH DESERT PARTNERSHIP FOR KIDS

MISSION/PURPOSE

The High Desert Partnership for Kids is a child-focused consortium, committed to sharing collective knowledge and resources to promote the well being of children in the High Desert.

MEETING MINUTES April 14, 2003

In Attendance:

Cynthia Baker, Oasis Bonding Center	(760) 256-9530
Virginia Barron, SBCSS – State Preschool	(760) 244-6131 X217
Barbara Cook, SB Sexual Assault Services	(909) 885-8884
Cristine DeLara, HSS	(760) 955-3505
Gloria Esparza, Volunteers of America	(760) 245-6029
Michelle Gaona, Catholic Charities	(760) 242-2311 X8454
Stacy Iverson, First 5 San Bernardino	(909) 386-7706
Frances Mills, DCS/CPS	(760) 243-6761
Vici Nagel, HD Community Coalitions	
Cilia Ormesher, Oasis Bonding Center	(760) 256-9530
Dee Reames-Watkins, Whispering 4 Winds Intertribal	(760) 247-9696
Marilea Reese, High Desert Homeless Shelter	(760) 245-5991
Vel Obrien, Preschool Services Dept. SB County	(760) 951-3431
Kerri Tracy, Hesperia USD	(760) 244-4411 X257
Julian Weaver, SBCSS	(909) 386-2902
Melanie Regalado, AVUSD Preschool Family Center	(760) 247-2052
Sherman Garnett, SBCSS	(909) 386-2903
Cathy Smith, ACYFS	(760) 247-7930
Debra Guzman, Desert Mountain F.I.C.S.	(760) 245-4695
Dan Ochoa, SB County Probation	(760) 243-8158
Claire Burrus, “A Better Way” Domestic Violence	(760) 955-8010
Carol Ardrey, Loving The Lamb Ministries	(760) 887-4024
Renee E., Kids, Youth & Teens Inc.	(760) 243-1070
Ruben Morales, SB County Public Health PALS	(760) 956-4460
Michele Girard, SB County Public Health PALS- YESS	(760) 956-4414
Len Sandman, High Desert Community Foundation	(760) 241-4287
Gregory T. Lincoln, River of Life Christian Center	
Pastor Charlotte Fields, RDLCC	(760) 961-0685

Linda Hart, Grant Writer – Full Gospel Church/
High Desert Dream Center
Mary Jaquish, CBO Partnership Program – Chair

(909) 387-9074

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mary welcomed all those present and self-introductions were made.

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

No additions or deletions were noted.

3. Approval of March Minutes

There were no corrections or deletions to the minutes.

4. Guest Speaker Sherman Garnett, Coordinator Child Welfare & Attendance for County Schools

Mary introduced Sherman Garnett who will speak on the Child Welfare and County system.

Some of the highlights from Sherman Garnett presentation were:

- Sherman mentioned he had been a Principal of an Alternative School and his role now is child welfare attendance. He is also: the information officer handles complaints, transfers, suspensions, and expulsions.
- Sherman referred everyone to the handouts: Suspected Child Abuse Report and Child Abuse Issues Questions Often Asked.
- Sherman also referred everyone to the Child Abuse Prevention Materials they have in their packets and how important it is to share that information with their clients.
- Sherman mentioned that most everyone in the room is a Mandated Reporter and is required by law to report child abuse.
- If the Mandated Reporter does not report child abuse or neglect that person can be fined in a court of law.
- Last year 50,000 child abuse/neglect cases were reported to Child Protective Services with 2/3 of the incidents not substantiated.
- If you are not sure whether it is an abuse or neglect situation you should call in every time, because law enforcement and/or Child Protective Services staff will make the final determination.
- Child Protective Services staff knows the regulations and what is considered Child Abuse and neglect.
- The Suspected Child Abuse Report comes in NCR and should be filled out by the reporting party.

- One reason you want to call Child Protective Services on possible child abuse and neglect is so they can have a track record on the number of complaints, so they can take further action.
- Head lice become a school attendance problem, since the children are not allowed to attend school. The schools give the parents medication for their children.
- Sherman mentioned that school attendance is addressed at the SARB (School Attendance Review Board) and encouraged those present to become a member at their local SARB.
- Sherman gave an example of a child that had been out of school for half a year due to head lice, the mother did not have the skills to fix the problem, the case was discussed at the SARB and a fumigator went out to the house.
- He advised members not to worry about making a mistake when reporting suspected child abuse and/or neglect, because it is the job of law enforcement and Child Protective Services to do the investigation.
- Limited information from Child Protective Services about the case you reported would be provided to you after the investigation is completed.
- An ethical dilemma was given – An adult tells you that he/she was molested as a child. What about the statute of limitations? Sherman responded to report it to the local Police Department so they can handle it from there.
- The Suspected Child Abuse Report is kept in the Health file at the local schools; it cannot be kept in the child's regular file.
- It was suggested to report if the child has dirty clothes or if their house appears to be very dirty.
- The reporting party is protected and does not have to testify in court.
- Children are most at risk of child abuse between the ages of 0 to 7; the addition of the Amber Alerts is helpful in locating abducted children. Sherman stressed that you should report on teens and not assumes "they can handle it".
- Sherman gave an example of a student who brought a vibrator to school; he stated that children assimilating sex acts that are not "normal" should be reported as child abuse.
- Sherman gave an example of a 15-year-old pregnant girl who attending a youth group. Should you report her or not? Yes, report it because she is a minor having sex. The up side is she will get the needed referrals and resources.
- It is against the law in California for anyone under 18 having sex with an adult. This type of situation must be reported to the police and Child Protective Services.

Comments and questions asked, "Are clergy mandated to report?" Yes. If you think it is a fine line or any doubt call it in. It is CPS discretion to handle it. We are a world of our own up here and there is nothing in San Bernardino can do. There is a CPS person there. If someone says a cousin did it, we don't even acknowledge if he did or did not do it. Lots of times what it was said that

someone said they did it and CPS report it and told you that. It looks like you did it they tell that person? CPS tracks calls. You will get something in the mail from CPS. At what age can a child be left alone at home? It depends on the child, if the child is stable and responsible doesn't have problems in school if it is 3:30 and the parents are work and you see something going on at the house you call it in. It is not your job to interpret child abuse; you are concerned so you report it. There is not a general guideline on an age? No. If you have any doubt, please call it in before something happens. It is important to call in sexual behavior between minors, because CPS needs to know where the child learned that behavior to engage in sex play with another child. Did it come from an adult, or how was the child exposed? If the child is 14 years of age it is automatically reportable if the other child is over 18. Had lots of meetings like this about reporting or not. If you are not happy, always ask for a supervisor if not happy for result you get on the phone. Supervisor might take a different action. Sherman was thanked for his presentation. There was a new law that mentions you are mandated reporter when you deal with kids. It was mentioned that Lili Miles has been an excellent trainer for child abuse prevention.

5. Local Speaker: Cheryl Norton of St. John of God Health Care

Cheryl Norton was going to be the speaker from this region, but she was not able to make it. We are going to have a replacement. This gentleman is filling for someone else, his name is JC Fisher is from CPS so he going to speak on some of things might be wondering about CPS and how things are reported and those type of things. What goes on in his office once a call is made.

What happens when a call comes to DCS? Have 3 levels of response of calls, first is immediate response there is a crisis – calls from law enforcement and schools. Drop everything they are doing and get a county vehicle and go out and investigate. Depending on the situation will have law enforcement assistance, but usually they are there ahead of time. He is an intake worker and deals with it a lot. Some of those where the parents are being arrested for drug charges, etc. There is a lot different procedure when responding to drug lab calls. A Drug Lab meets up with them. Normally goal is to secure child first. Law enforcement or someone reports the child is in danger and currently injured and clearly abused. If the child comes to school with a bruise or the injuries are recent. If it appears that the child should not go back home, the school holds the child until CPS can go out and investigates. If the child reports ongoing physical or sexual abuse or whatever. Even without injury the level the child is reporting it, needs a response will go out there as well. There are other things make come up. The next level is one that the county has done – response but not immediate. The law gives us 10 days to get out there. Sometimes we fill that 10 days is too long so it is assigned sooner. They consider the age of the child and what is being reported. Being able to find the people and make those decisions.

6. Handouts and Round Table Discussion

√Mary Jaquish reported: She brought everyone's attention to the Funding Alerts, in particular the 2 grants through the Department of Education for infant/toddler child development and school-aged children. Both are to assist with funding for existing childcare facilities. If you are in the childcare arena that would be something to definitely to look at. They are both listed on the Children's Network web site www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet. Mary was not sure about the deadlines, but thought they would be coming up very quickly, so you are encouraged to visit the web site today. Oracle Corporation, if you are a Charter School and any other school, but sometimes charter schools don't get invited to come to the table for grant processes. In this particular one, charter schools are eligible for assistance to this program and the only qualification is that those students have a high number of lunches provided programs. Our county certainly qualifies for low-income lunches to be provided. California Pizza Kitchen – someone brought to her attention that geographically California Pizza Kitchen is not in our area. There is one located in Riverside County. Her thought was to talk to the California Pizza Kitchen people and think they are going to put one in Ontario, which would be in our county. The California Pizza Kitchen applications are due September 30th. Mary stated she would get more information and see if there will be a California Pizza Kitchen put in the Ontario area. Lisa our clerk is putting out some more grants Mary ran across last week on the web site today, so everyone was encouraged to go to the CBO Partnership Program and drop down to weekly funding alert and look at that page. Did Susan Culbertson come out to this group and talk about training at the Academy? Yes, she did. There is a symposium coming up on May 19th with all kinds of neat workshops. Kent Paxton and Ed Rowe from Children's Network are putting on a workshop for proving outcomes for at-risk youth. There is a registration page on the back of the booklet for the May 19th conference. It is not too late to register; you can us for Susan's number.

√Julian Weaver of SBCSS reported: Julian mentioned the SARB is School Attendance Review Board. There is a sign up sheet being passed around to participate on the SARB. There are 26 to 27 SARBs in the 32 districts countywide. The districts have acting SARB that deals with minor truancy issues, serious truancy issues and minor system problems prior to expulsion. Many times the truancy or behavior problem is rooted in some other issues. It is helpful to have other resources to refer the family. It can be very helpful to get the families to SARB. He works with school-aged children. Lots of people try to make connection with school staff for families. The conduit to get meetings set-up. Sherman Garnett is a key coordinator for this county. He does 2 groups in the county. Sherman meets once a month with the child welfare attendance coordinators of San Bernardino and the other desert area. If you have a need to talk with the child welfare attendance coordinators to provide services, call Sherman and he will get you on the agenda. The program is winding down this

month. Next month they will be having a celebration lunch to recognize outstanding people in the community such as probation officers, police officers, and those of you around the table that have made a contribution. Late for this year to get involved, but you can call him to get involved for next year. They will be sure to share your program with the community.

Mary Jaquish announced: The Children's Fund annual duck race is this month; it is April 26th at Guasti Regional Park. There was an agency picked by Children's Fund for each geographical area to be the benefactor for this year's duck race. The benefactor for the desert is St. John of God, so Mary suggested if you want to adopt a duck to contact Cheryl Norton. Those funds will stay up here in the high desert. A lot of good things will be happening at the duck race. Mary mentioned she is really looking forward to the duck race. Some other workshops are listed in your agenda packet. The back page is all the materials in the office on child abuse prevention. If you want brochures in English or Spanish, just call Lisa and let her know. The list has everything in the office, so give a call and it can be shipped to you. There are stacks all on the back table of the materials, so please take stacks of them.

√Melanie Regalado of AVUSD Preschool Family Center reported: She had brochures out. They are sponsoring some families.

√Virginia Barron, SBCSS – State Preschool reported: Virginia thanked those that were able to attend the workshop last week. They had 1278 actually signed in. Anthony Chambers was the guest speaker and really excited everyone. They have full day classes open and running. Victorville just opened two weeks ago. Apple Valley and Adelanto opening soon. There are full day classes. If you know of anyone in the area that is students, make minimum wage, refer them. There is no charge and they are opened for 9 hours a day Monday through Friday.

√Kerri Tracy of Hesperia USD reported: The grant for this year has been cut. She has been working with high school students. There will be cuts to community services and services like wraparound. If you have offer services you can offer or want to introduce yourself, please do.

√Cynthia Baker of Oasis Bonding Center reported: They are having their first event and you are welcome to come and take a tour. It is a beautiful facility. The event is from 10 to 2 p.m. and they will be having an Easter egg hunt and barbecue for families. The date is Saturday, April 19th.

√Debra Guzman of Desert Mountain FICS reported: This month they are having a family conference for their families. They supervise in-home supportive services for families that have members with emotional and physical problems. They do therapy and counseling, parenting with a team approach. Staff will go into the home up to 5 days a week. A resource booth will be available to share info. with families.

√Dee Reames-Watkins of Whispering 4 Winds Intertribal reported: Not much is going on. They are getting ready to have a fundraiser and looking at purchasing property. Everyone is equal so come on out after Labor Day and learn about a POW wow, there will be good food.

√Stacy Iverson of First 5 San Bernardino reported: They have a Healthy Kids Initiative coming up. The Commission has signed a contract with IEHP and now the paperwork is going through the regulatory process. Hopefully by late summer will have this initiative totally launched. What it will include is health insurance for children 0 to 18 that are falling within the 250% and 300% poverty level. The insurance will be for those families that do not qualify for Healthy Families or Medi-Cal, but may not have the resources for insurance. IEHP is putting forth funding for insurance for the 6 to 18 and First 5 is donating for 0 to 5. That will be something to look forward to and hope it will be helpful. More information will be shared.

√Dan Ochoa of Probation reported: They have been working with Julian for a number of years through County Schools. They have an on-site school at Probation Department. In addition to that Probation, one of the few times in his 20 plus years is going into delinquency prevention. They are offering services to non-probationers as well. On the table, he put a flyer out on 32 different classes with components they offer to kids at no cost. Most of the referrals come through Juvenile traffic. In addition if the child doesn't have Medi-Cal or private insurance they go ahead and provide individual therapy. There are 6 therapists under contract. There are tutorial services as well. They have a community worksite through the Bridges program. They have community service officers that are involved with the SARBS. Any questions, Dan can be reached at (760) 243-8158 or stop by anytime.

√Barbara Cook of San Bernardino Sexual Assault Services reported: A reminder they do have a 24-hour hotline. They provide counseling services at no cost.

√Claire Burrus of "A Better Way" Domestic Violence Program reported: domestic violence victims use their funding only. They have classes for victims at various ages from elementary school on up. They talk about issues of domestic violence and suicide. They are currently teaching classes in the Apple Valley district and Hesperia. They have applied for funding from the city of Apple Valley because they are serving a large number of citizens from Apple Valley. The next meeting for funding they are asking for support for their program due to cutback from the state, they will definitely be losing funding. All the services they offer are free. It is very critical they receive funding and right now they are working on no funding from the city of Apple Valley. They are really looking for support for their funding of the program.

√Carol Ardrey of the Loving The Lamb Ministries reported: They are a non-profit organization with the main focus on counseling for the people whom have experienced the satanic ritual abuse. There are many out there right now. They are also finding that teenage children through the board members and are reaching out specifically for counseling. They help with some other needs as well.

√Marilea Reese of the High Desert Homeless Shelter reported: Marilea is the Program Director. They have a special program for the 0 to 5. They also have lots of classes they have implemented to try to help people to get good jobs and to better their living situation when they leave the shelter. Residents can stay in the shelter for 90 days provided they follow the rules and actively look for employment. They are funded by grants and private donations, like most of you are probably losing a lot of money right now, but they are hoping they will be getting another grant from First 5 for the year. They are going to have some fundraisers coming up and not sure about the dates are. The Rotary Club will put one on and she thinks it will be a Casino night or something in May. If you get date before the next meeting and share it with Mary, she can e-mail it to the partnership for the heads up.

√Michelle Gaona of Catholic Charities reported: They are taking appointments right now for utilities (electricity, gas, water, and propane), housing (vouchers) and social service, prescriptions for medication, transportation, and food applications. Information and Referral good for the next 30 working days. Taking appointments for emergency. Help families with referrals. She can be reached at (760) 242-2311 X8454. They can provide counseling and do reach out. They are beginning collaboration with the Coalition of Justice and helping them to use their facilities for the program. Don't forget taking appointments to help the families you serve.

√ReDee E. of Kids, Youth and Teens, Inc. reported: This is the first time for her at this meeting. They just recently incorporated. Through their mission statement is to give back our cities. They work in the high desert. Their second event was in Barstow; children performed a 14-act drama for Easter Passover and were well received. The first event was a carnival in Apple Valley. They are trying to highlight the different cities, and in doing so they are collecting funds. Their long-term goal is to get a facility they can incorporate all the different organizations for children and also have a place for them. That is why the name is Kids, Youth and Teens, Inc. There are plans for mentoring, tutoring. They are partnering with an organization that is providing vocational training for adults, and high school students' scholarships for college. There is also assistance for job placement. Main theme is to take back cities through love joy music. They build on self-esteem for youth is their goal. Their parent organization is multi-cultural children's foundation. She has business cards to hand out. Looking forward to networking.

√Ruben Moralez of the Public Health Dept. PALS project reported: He works mainly with the pregnant teen program. Tomorrow there will be a free used clothing give away for anyone who wants to drop into sees what fits. It will be at Phases Clinic– for 10 to 3 p.m. at Bear Valley and 3rd.

√Michele Girard, Public Health PALS – YESS reported: She works with the teen pregnancy program. They get referrals from County Welfare Attendance on children whom have missed more then 20 days of school. Michele sits on a SARB and carries a caseload of 30 children. About half of the children are on probation, 1/3 are in the DCS system, so she works with the courts and all kinds of agencies. There is a lot to do working with parents and children.

√Gregory Lincoln of River of Life Christian Center reported: Tonight they will be launching their Cliff program, which is the computer literacy lab project. They are taking 2 hours twice a week to establish a class to empower adults, children and students with the computer. Giving them knowledge that will be beneficial and viable for this society. The first class that starts tonight goes through August. There will be a graduation on August 10th. The next class will be starting in September. They will be making them viable in the sense they are offering training, resume preparation, interview how to conduct themselves such as dress and basically all the things to empower them to get gainful employment. The class will run Monday and Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. If you want additional information, get with him after the meeting.

√Pastor Charlotte Fields of ROLCC (River of Life Christian Church in Apple Valley reported: This is the first time for her to attend and thought the meeting was very informative. Because they are a church, they are non-profit. They will cover lots of different things and adding to what Greg already said. Their endeavor is to take that person whom is not computer literate and get them all the way to gain successful employment. They are beginning to network with Thrift Shops and will talk to Department Stores as well to get the interview outfit and the whole process. They will teach them how to handle themselves, because there are lots of adults especially who do not know how to present themselves. Whether a teen or adult they want to make them a viable member of the community and empower them. They are right across from the Apple Valley Fire Department and it is the old Apple Valley Police Department.

√Vici Nagel from High Desert Community Coalition reported: Passed around some flyers as she was speaking. She referred everyone to his or her brochure on the back table. In a nutshell what they do is, form coalitions around certain issues like this group. She passed around a questionnaire, which is a survey of your needs. Besides forming coalitions, they support organizations. They do workshops and some of you attended. What she wants to know is the groups' needs so she can tailor the workshops for you around your needs. Vici mentioned if you have already filled out a questionnaire at another meeting, no need to fill out another one. The questionnaire she is using is very similar to the one United

Way staff passed out at a previous High Desert Partnership for Kids meeting. Other announcements: there are some cards about the non-profit conference on May 16th and is a full day for \$50 and is being put on by the Volunteer Center and Resource Center from Riverside/San Bernardino. It is going to be workshops all day on various topics for fund raising, personnel management, volunteer management. There is also a flyer about their partners in safe in service coalition. It is a fairly new group of faith-based and community-based organizations that are actually looking at doing some projects together. It is not just a networking meeting; they are looking at things like a one-stop center for homeless services or just all kind of services. The next meeting is June 5th and a flyer is back on the table. Last thing, flyers on the table called the Facts Sheet on the High Desert Funders Forum. It is going to be a daylong event in October, where there will be representatives from different foundations, such as California Foundation, Community Foundation. They have commitments from the California Endowment, First 5. San Bernardino holds one in the summer. It will be a cost of \$10 to cover materials and mailing. A very good opportunity to hear about the funders talk about what is they do fund, what is they don't fund which is equally as important to know so time is not wasted in filling out applications, when you find out later your agency doesn't even meet the criteria. Everyone will get invitations and sign up ways to respond. Save the Date October 9th.

Mary Jaquish announced that Children's Network and Children's Fund had a grant a couple of years ago on teen pregnancy prevention. There will be a Youth Fair at the Rotunda from 10 –2 Tuesday, on May 13th. Ivy is asking that it will be a day where agencies, non-profits, churches, educators and the media work with youth to have tables at the Government Center. If you are interested, please pick up the flyer. There are some posters for the Duck Race, posters from First 5. There is a flyer, gentleman Pete Callahan who has 200 computers that are about 6 years old and some small workstations that have been dismantled that were used for telemarketing purposes in El Monte. They are free, you don't even have to have your non-profit status, but if go to youth and use at agencies. You are more then welcome to pick them up. You are required to take at least 15 at a time. Mary received some information about an agency that provides shoes for children. Mary is going to make a couple of calls to get more information about it. If you are an agency and might need some shoes, might be able to get some shoes out to those agencies through this foundation. Right after this collaborative, there will be a workshop on Guidance to faith-based and community-based organizations working together. It will be an hour – fast track workshop, but will give you some insight and things to think about once you start partnering with community-based organizations. Just quick points and things to think about.

Yard Sale on April 25th and 26th at the Shelter – welcome to come and shop at the High Desert Homeless Shelter. Does anyone know of an agency or assistance for housing for the deaf? Catholic Charities can help; call Michelle Gaona at (760) 242-2311 X8454.

Mary reminded everyone to sign in on the sign in sheet. That is how you will be notified by post card of the next meeting and any funding alerts between the meetings.

Meeting adjourned.

7. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting date will be held on **Monday, May 10, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. at the Desert Mountain Educational Center, 17800 Outer Highway 18, Apple Valley.**

Respectfully submitted,

TAMMY WILLIAMS, Recording Secretary
Children's Network

/tgw